THE YEAR OF TERRORS.

Outpouring of the Vinis of Wrath-Vol canoss, Earthquakes, Cyclones-Tremendous Convulsions on Earth and in the Henvens-Meteors, Comets, and Revolutions-The Islands that Flee Away, and the Mountains that are not Found-The Appalling Wonders of 1867-The Plagues that are Written in the Book.

Since the wonderful revelations of the Trastourian theory were published, announcing the progress and rapid approach of tremendous changes in the condition of our globe and of the planetary system in which it is embraced, the attention of mankind has been continually arrested by astounding natural phenomena.

Fearful thunderstorms, earthquakes, vol-eanic cruptions, both by land and sea, tornadoes and inundations, have followed each other with scarcely any intermission; and at this moment there is widespread mourning in every one of the four quarters of the world we inhabit, for immense losses of life and property, occasioned by these convulsions of

Frightful typhoons at Porto Rico, St. Domingo, and St. Thomas, sweeping, as we learn by the latest advices, along the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent regions to Matamoras, thence westward to the Pacific, hurling death and ruin as far northward as the shores of Alaska and finally sweeping down upon Australia China, Japan, and the British East Indies the submersion of the island of Tortola for many hours; the sudden eruption of Vesuvius, and consequent volcanic perturbation of Astas in Sicily, of Stromboli and the Ionian Isles; the threatened eruption of mountains in our own Territory of Montana, and the sulphurous conflagrations extending for scores of leagues in the country west of the Yellowstone; the alarming activity of a crater in the populous valley of Mexico, whose fires have been apparently extinct for centuries; shocks of earthquake in Portugal, Russia, Bokhara, and other portions of the globe, augmented in their effect by the singular solar obscurations observed within the year, and the sublime meteoric display, visible over two continents, on the morning of the 15th instant, have convinced the learned that the cosmic shell, upon the outer surface of which we live, the vast system that embraces it, and even the ethereal spaces beyond, extending for myriads of millions of leagues into the Milky Way, are now undergoing some peculiar vicissitudes. Active readers are aware that upon the year 1867 has been concentrated a full stream of prophecy from seers of every creed and nationality, and that dozens of them insist upon the certainty of a general cataclysm in the heavens and on the earth to come before New Year's.

What there is real in these anticipations we shall not presume to decide. Our purpose is simply to review the situation very rapidly, while furnishing, in brief, some notes of the celestial and atmospheric phenomena that have appalled our race in times gone by.

THE DELUGE.

of course, was the most tremendous catastrophe of which we have any written record. All nations, in using this peculiar expression. refer to the general inundation of which Noah and his family were the sole survivors, according to the Mosaic narrative. The eye of profound science has, however, discovered the indisputable traces of at least fifteen deluges, or so to speak, in other words, fifteen grand variations by which the sea and the land have been made to change places. How many more preceded these it is for Omniscience alone to cnow. These changes are accounted for by the comparatively late discovery of the conic movement of our globe, which causes the precession of the equinoxes, and is fully completed once in every 25,868 years. By this movement the earth reverses its entire attitude, and causes the oceans and the continents altimately to exchange places. For instance. there can be no manner of doubt that the solid ground on which we now repose was once the bed of a sea, in which our mountain summits were islands and promontories, if they emerged at all, and that it will be so again.

But these transformations, appalling to contemplate when fully effected, are the gradual work of ages, culminating here and there, however, in calamities precipitated by some great perturbation of the atmosphere or some sudden volcanic action. It is to these outside influences, heightened by the eccentricity of wast planetary bodies, such as comets, etc. that we owe the danger to which we are exposed, and which has often burst into the reality of dreadful calamities, as it now seems threatening to do.

The fabled land of the Atlantides did once really exist, as we could perhaps prove, had we here the space. The present bed of the Atlantic Ocean was then blooming in the rays of the sun, and full of life, while the surface now beneath our feet was fathoms deep below the billows. While we write, the ocean is gaining ground-and rapidly too, on Europe, and losing it in America; our shores are emerging; those of Britain, Scandinavia, Russia, France, etc., are sinking. From the Nespolitan shore one can look down upon the masonry of ancient temples that once were high upon the land, and now are many feet beneath the waves. But all geological narratives note these facts from year to year. Let as mention a few instances

The Church of St. Denis de Caux, now, with the parish that surrounded it, swept over by the billows at the distance of two miles from land, at the mouth of the roadstead of Havre, stood high and dry in the eleventh century, and was not finally engulfed until

Near Rochelle, also in France, the town o Chatetaillon has been swallowed little by little by the waters. The Jersey Islands, too, un-doubtedly once formed a portion of the northern mainland, and connected France with England by an isthmus,

At Douarnenez, not far from Nantes, the sea is undermining the cliffs, and steadily advancing to the invasion of the adjacent district. It has been calculated, too, that in a few centuries the city of Bordeaux will be completely

covered with the sands of the sea. Similar inroads are noticeable along the Scottish coast; and at Wexford, in Ireland, there is a register of the taxes raised in Bannow, a fine seaside town, which disappeared in the same way eight hundred years ago. Hapless Iceland is gradually being drowned

and frozen out, as we learn from the reports of the exploring voyage made thither by Prince Napoleon. Her sixty thousand habitants will soon be driven away, or perish by the billows, the sand, and the ice. Spitzbergen, once quite habitable, is no longer frequented by the whale fishermen. Her waters have lost their leviathan game, and the snow no longer melts in her valleys. The island of Jan Mayen and Eastern Greenland have shared the same fate. The rising of the bed of the Atlantic Ocean has already so greatly diminished the current of the Gulf Stream that it cannot reach those far-off shores in suffisient volume to support animal life, in sea or land, as before; and the beautiful swards and Greats of Greenland, Iceland, and Spitzbergen vanishing. Even farther south, the whale has m completely disappeared that fourteen

screw-steamers, which started on the fishery last summer, from Dundee, have returned with two whales only, thus making a loss of

The surprising variations of the Gulf Stream have long been noticed to be increasing annually; until, during the last year, our American mariners have made it a subject of special

An eloquent French writer (Octave Giraud) speaks of the Gulf of Gascony as a vast necroolis, in which one may sail over the ruins of former cities. The aucient town of Noviomagus was there engulfed in the year 580; and, when the sea is calm, the walls and gables of its buildings can still be seen deep under water. Where the poet Ansonne once fished and wrote verses, the waves roll fathoms high. The rock of Cordonan, with its lighthouse, now three leagues from the beach, once touched it. Between 1818 and 1830 the water gained 150 yards; and from 1830 to 1842, about 300 yards. From 1842 to 1845, it encroached 100 yards-550 yards in twenty-five years, on a high shore.

On the coast of Normandy, near to Regneville, there stood, in the Middle Ages, a handsome commercial mart, which is now submerged; and, in fine, the whole littoral France presents similar indications. It was but the other day that the port of France had to be strengthened, at a cost of 865,000 francs. On the 15th of March, the tide rushed in for hundreds of yards beyond the former limits of the coasts of the Channel, near Ponterton.

On the island of Walcheren, during the inundations of 1647, 1648, 1687, and 1706, the downs were swept bare, and the sands carried away by the rage of the billows, leaving uncovered far below quantities of statues, urns, houses, and tombs, with inscriptions pointing to the highest antiquity !

In 1604 the eastern coast of England was inundated and lost considerable territory. In the Gulf of Bothnia, between Sweden and Finland, the depth of water has greatly diminished, and islands have appeared above it, within one hundred years, but on the western coast of the Swedish Peninsula the sea continnes to gain.

On our side of the globe, the Bank of Newfoundland is swiftly rising, to reunite, one day, with the mainland; our seaboard cities are getting farther away from the open water; bed of the Mississippi is rising, and the Gulf of Mexico filling. In Australia, fresh islands are continually cropping up, and, within a twelvemonth, the discoloration of a large patch of the Pacific in the route of the San Francisco and Hong Kong steamers, has indicated the early appearance of a new island

Off the coast of the East Indies, on the other hand, the natives point out to strangers the remains of the ancient city of Mahabalipores, long hidden by the ocean, but still showing, at low water, pagodas and palaces that were occupied ages ago.

After contemplating these facts, we may find the asserted fate of Tortola less surprising than it seemed at first, if it has, indeed, been submerged. Since we have not only this encroachment of the sea, long working silently and gradually, then sweeping all before it at last, but

VOLCANIC ACTION

sufficient to account for it. In April, 1819, the Island of Sumbava, in the East Indies, became the scene of a volcanic eruption, which lasted for months, and was heard 1000 miles in one direction and 750 in another, or over a diameter of 1750 miles in all. The sea rose from two to twelve feet along the entire coast, and the Bank of Bima, which had been six fathoms below water, was left dry, while in the opposite direction the waves rushed to the very foot of the volcano, overwhelming the town of Tomboro and the whole adjacent country. They left a depth of eighteen feet of water where none at all was seen before, and of 12,000 inhabitants on the island only 24 escaped.

On the 19th of March, 1865, the ship Veritas, in 20 degrees and 35 minutes north latitude, and 140 degrees 5 minutes east longitude, saw a new and magnificent island-volcano in midocean. A crater with four vents shot fire, ashes, and lava thousands of feet into the air, offering a spectacle of appalling sublimity at It was on the 30th of January, 1866, that the tremendous volcanic eruption commenced, which lasted until the end of March with awful violence, and threw up three new islands in the roadstead of Santorino, in the Greek Archipelago, the trio finally uniting and forming a promontory to the adjacent land

Similar eruptions have occurred elsewhere in all ages. Strabo, the historian, speaks of one in his time on the Island of Methone. In more modern times, among the grandest have been that of Sckapta, in Iceland, in 1783, which covered the sea with cinders for hundreds of miles, and caused an island crater to spring up amid the waves. The eruption and appearance of a new island among the Azores, June 15, 1811, had a crater a mile wide, and threw out volumes of scalding water above a cone two hundred feet high. It disappeared the next October, and by February, 1812, nothing could be seen of it but a cloud of vapor arising from the spot. In 1638, 1691, 1719, and 1757, there had been similar eruptions in the same group—the one that left its crater longest visible dating an island existence of three years. In 1796 an island rose out of the sea in the Aleutian group, near Oumnak, and continued to increase. years afterwards it emitted smoke and vapor. and in 1805 was still so hot that a man could not land on it. It was 2) miles in length, and 180 feet high, and threw off a pleasant odor of petroleum.

By-the-way, this peculiar odor was mentioned by ancient historians-was noticed at the earlier eruption of Santorino in 1650, and at the great eruption of Vesuvius in 1805. It gives a hint as to the probable connection of the volcanic fires with the interior reservoirs of naptha, suggesting at the same time a very easy way by which (as Professor Loomi thinks) the entire globe might be blown up like an over-heated steam-boiler.

In 1830 a small volcanic island made its appearance off the Iceland coast near Reykiavik pestrewing the sea for many miles with scoria from a submarine crater. In June and July the island of Fernandina, or Julia, appeared off the coast of Sicily with a splendid eruption, covering the water with dead fish and filling the atmosphere for leagues around with sul phurie acid gas.

Thus it is clear enough that either the permanent incursion of the sea or the action of submarine volcanogs or earthquakes would account for even the sudden disappearance o Tortola, or, if that island was simply swept bare by the billows borne to an unusual heigh by the force of a hurricane, its fate was no more than that which overtook "Last Island," off the Guif Coast of Louisiana, a few years ago. Last Island was low and sandy, but had become quite a favorite bathing resort for the people of New Orleans, Mobile, and elsewhere. terrific storm drove the sea over it; all the hotels, dwellings, and bathing-stalls were torn

away, and 600 persons perished. But even without recurring to the subter-

TORNAHORS AND THUNDRESTORMS quite enough to account for all the devastation that occurs upon islands of the sea or on the solid mainland. The spirits of the air are sufficiently malignant and potent, whether they act in conjunction with the awful in-fluences of the void above and the abyse below, or vent their own unsided fury upon the habitations of man. Whether they come on as the hot sirocco of Egypt, the kermattan of the Guinea Coast, or the stifling simoon of the Great Desert, they are appalling. But Victor Hugo has designated them all in language of matchless force, that has been eagerly perused by thousands of American readers in his "Toilers of the Sea." We shall not attempt to repeat the description, but confine ourselves to a few salient incidents.

Our daily papers, particularly the organs of the French population residing in New York, have given accounts more or less desultory and incoherent of the frightful cyclone which seems to have ravaged all the West India islands, excepting Havana, within the last thirty days. We may briefly state that the Danish colonies, being the northernmost of these groups, were the first to feel the tempest which struck St. Thomas, on the 25th of Oc tober, coming from the northwest, and raged from 2 o'clock until 6 P. M., destroying in the four hours property that cannot be replaced in years. It devastated the southern half of Porto Rico on the night of the 29th, and the south of San Domingo on the morning of the 30th, everywhere blowing down houses, sweeping the country clear of crops and stock, and sinking or hurling ashore all the shipping in the roadsteads.

The same scenes were recnacted at St. Pierre and the Fort de France, in the French colony of Martinique, on the night of the 7th and 8th instant; and Tortola, a British island, was, at least, completely drenched and desolated by the billows. At Calcutta, Hong Kong, Matamoras, Manilla, and close to Sitka Island, in the North Pacific, our new possession, the same cyclone or its coadjutors continued their dread work. The sum total of property destroyed is estimated at \$50,000,000, and of life lost at 10,000, including the destruction at Tortols. Over 200 ships of different nations, and 5000 dwellings and public buildings went down: fire in some cases complicating the distress.

We have had many tornadoes on this continent, but none comparable in fury to these West Indian storms, although, in Iowa and other Western States, whole districts have suffered. The most terrific of these tornadoes ever known in the United States was that which enveloped Charleston, S. C., on the 2d of May, 1761. It was nearly equal to the worst cyclone. It came up Wappo creek like a dense column of smoke, and contained such a prodigious mass of vapor, in such rapid revo-Intion, that the channel of Ashley river was completely laid bare. When it reached the river, it made a noise like continuous thunder.

Among the Antilles, in the Gulf of Mexico, or in the East Indies, these cyclones seem like a return to original night and chaos. Sometimes, again, the whole sky and sea appear in Vessels caught in them, if they live at all, lose every sail, and half a dozen stalwart men, working together for their lives, can hardly hold the belm.

In an awful storm of this kind, on July 25, 1825, at Guadaloupe, the wind at the height of its intensity seemed luminous; a silver flame played from all the points and interstices of the walls, keyholes, and other issues, and made the trembling inmates of the houses think that the heavens were on fire! The diameter of these cyclones, or circular storms varied from fifty to one hundred miles, and

their height from one to ten miles. But these dreadful tempests are not by any means confined to the more torrid portions of the earth, as the experience of France, Eng-land, and the United States only too fully proves. The tropical record is one long narative of disastrous storms, increasing, however, in intensity in these later years. annals of the temperate zones do not offer so many instances, but there have been some which history and tradition will transmit to the remotest generations.

Of these the most recent and terrible may, with propriety, be briefly mentioned here. 16, 1866, was made memorable by the most awful thunder-storm ever witnessed at Paris. About 1 P. M. the clouds gathered with magical rapidity over the city until, in less than ten minutes, the capital was plunged in darkness. The rain fell in such torrents that the streets were immediately inundated, and many workmen employed in the public sewers, not having time to regain their ladders, perished. The thunder was continuous and perfectly appalling for three hours, and the lightning struck more than two hundred places, directing its chief fury upon the Quartier Latin, and including churches, hospitals, and academies in its desperate attacks.

Gay, skeptical Paris was struck dumb with horror, and "the bravest held his breath for a The statue of liberty surmounting the column of July, on the site of the old Bastile. was dazzlingly illuminated and surrounded with a halo of ruddy light, until evening. All night long, fear rested on the hearts of nearly 3,000,000 of people, and it was twenty-four hours before they breathed freely again.

On the 20th of last August, about 9 in the evening, a thunder-storm unequalled in violence for a century past, burst upon London, and lasted all night, blowing off roofs, causing conflagrations, and levelling crops in the surrounding country, with an extent of damage amounting to £1,000,000 sterling. Nearly a hundred persons were struck by the lightning, and a lady of rank residing some miles from the metropolis died of fright at the height of the tempest. Several counties suffered and their inhabitants were wild with alarm.

On the night of August 18, a grand thun-derstorm passed near Portland, Me., and swept over Gorham, North Yarmouth, Pownal. and Durham, unroofing buildings, tearing up trees, and prostrating crops. At Casca, Bridgton, Winthrop, Leeds, and Waterville, the thunder was as regular as the swift beating of a pulse, and the lightning seemed one incessant flash. It greatly resembled the storm of April 4, 1866, at Paris, which, without being so imposing as that of July in the same year, was remarkable for the number of lightning strokes which tell in every direction. The United States have been remarkable for the frequency and proportions of their hail-storms. In 1851, hailstones fell at Pittsburg, Pa , measuring two and three inches in diameter, and weighing, in some cases, more than a

But all accounts that we have of great tempests occurring within the northern latitudes during the last two centuries are eclipsed by the story of

THE GREAT STORM OF 1703.

The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nah. i. 3) is the appropriate motto of a quaint old book bearing the follow-

ing title:-The Storm; or, a Collection of the m Remarkable Casualties and Distresses which happened in the late dreadful Tempest, both by Sea and Land. London, height of this overwhelming cataclysm was during the night of the 26th and 27th of No-Sea and Land. London, 1704." The

vember, 1703, at the futl moon, after an unaspally wet season of six months. A tremen dons wind arose on the 24th, and blew on with increasing violence, day and night, until the 26th, when it became an appalling hurricane that burled tiles, signs, timber work, etc., inte indistinguishable ruin, and awakened the utmost fear that the entire city of London would be levelled. All the ships on the Thames were blown from their moorings and tossed ashore, head and stern together. dreadful wind never intermitted for seven days and nights.

Hundreds of vessels were destroyed in port. and scores of others never returned from sea while at least eight thousand sailors perished. To give some idea of the force and velocity of this atmospheric current, we may mention that a vessel laden with tin was driven out of Helford at midnight, with only two men and a boy on board, dragging her four anchors, and without sail was dashed into a creek in the Isle of Wight, at 8 the next morning. Thus she must have been carried thirty miles per hour, and the velocity of the wind was probably three or four times as great.

We have not room to-day to do more than refer to the terrific volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, inundations, flights of shooting-stars, showers of blood, stones, animalculæ, sulphur soot, frogs, etc., that have been witnessed; vast spaces of the ocean covered with inflammable oil, or with fluids resembling milk and blood; columns of rocky fragments, and dust; and smoke suddenly rising from the earth and ascending to the clouds on fair days, torrents of rain descending without a speck to be seen in the sky; dry, dark mists, evidently not of aqueous vapor, rising to the zenith and rest ing over whole provinces for days together, obscuring the sun.

Suffice it to say that all the resistless forces of nature which have wrought such revolutions in other epochs, even to the sand storms of the Desert that entombed the entire army of Cambyses, letting not one man escape seem to have received some recent renewed impulse, and that phenomena multiply upon us with startling rapidity.

It has just been discovered that a comet of great size undoubtedly exists, and completes its flight within the limits of our solar system, and that it is attended by an accumulating train of cosmic matter. Close astronomical observation confirm, the belief that our globe and its satellite plunged directly through the train of the comet that appeared in 1861, and since that date there has been an unusual recurrence of celestial and terrestial phenomena reflected, as it were, in the moral and political perturbations of mankind.

The augmenting size and number of the spots visible on the disk of the sun, the gathering hosts of shooting-stars now regularly looked for, and the eccentric variations of the magnetic needle, all point to some unusual phase of existence through which our earth is passing. If we look around us, on the coudition of the nations, we find it agitated, confused, and expectant of calamity and changeall Europe and Asia heaving with the fires of suppressed revolution, and every part of America, including the United States, anxious and ill at ease.

At out the 2d of December coming, we may expect to behold a succession of wonders which the student ponders but scarcely mentions .- N. Y. Sunday Mercury.

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\$200,000 United States Five Per Cent.
Loan, 181.

\$50,000 United States Five Per Cent.
Loan, 181.

\$50,000 United States 7 s to Per Cent Loan
Treasury Notes.

\$200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per
Cent. Loan
(city of Philadelphia Six Per Cent
Loan (exempt from tax). ABSETS OF THE CUMPANY, \$201,000*05 88,662-98 210,07000 10,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. 195,885*06 51,000-00 19,800'00 23,375'00 20,000100

20,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent.

20,000 Pennsylvania Railroad First
Mortgage Six Per Ceot. Bonds....

25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad, second
Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds....

25,000 Western Pennsylvania Railroad
Six Per Cent. Loads (Pennsylvania Railroad
Six Per Cent. Loads (Pennsylvania Railroad guarantes).....

21,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent.
Loan.

10,000 So shares Stock of Germantown
Gas Company (principal and interest guaranteed by the city of
Philadelphia)...

7,000 100 Shares Stock of Pennsylvania
Railroad Company.

5,000 100 Shares Stock of Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

5,000 100 Shares Stock of Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

5,000 100 Shares Stock of Philadelphia and
bouthern Mail Steamship Company.

20,000 So Shares Stock of Philadelphia and
bouthern Mail Steamship Company.

20,000 Loads on Bonds and Mortgage, 18,000'00 4,270 00 15.000°00 7,800.00 8,000'00 15,000100

261,500 Loans on Bonds and Morigage, first liens on City Properties...... 201,900:00 Market value \$1,102,802-08 Cost \$1,089,670 26. \$1,161,400 par. Real Estate
Bills Receivable for Insurance made'.

Balances due at Agencies Premiums on Marine Policies Accurated Interest, and other debis due the Company Stock and Scrip of Sundry Insurance and other Companies, \$4076'@ Estimated value.

Bank Stock and Scrip of Sundry Insurance and other Companies, \$4076'@ Estimated value. 219,135-67 45,884-90 3.017.00

103,315-62

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